

**In the Claims:**

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1. (Currently Amended) A base material for dry direct tableting which is obtained by impregnating low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose having a hydroxypropyl cellulose content in the range from 5 to 16 % by weight with a sugar or a sugar alcohol and then drying ~~it~~ the product resulting therefrom.
2. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 1 wherein said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose has a degree of compaction of 35% or greater.
3. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 1 wherein said base material has a flowability index of 60 or greater.
4. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 2 wherein said base material has a flowability index of 60 or greater.
5. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol and sorbitol.
6. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 2 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol and sorbitol.
7. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 3 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol and sorbitol.

8. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 4 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol and sorbitol.

9. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

10. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 2 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

11. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 3 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

12. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 4 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

13. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 5 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

14. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 6 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 or 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

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15. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 7 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

16. (Original) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 8 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is present in an amount of 30 to 100% by weight based on said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose.

17. (New) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 1 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol, sorbitol, lactose, and sucrose.

18. (New) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 2 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol, sorbitol, lactose, and sucrose.

19. (New) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 3 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol, sorbitol, lactose, and sucrose.

20. (New) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 4 wherein said sugar or sugar alcohol is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of erythritol, mannitol, sorbitol, lactose, and sucrose.

21. (New) A base material for dry direct tableting as claimed in claim 1 wherein said low-substituted hydroxypropyl cellulose is in fibrous form.

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